Mrs. Andrea Kaufman
8657 Metz Place
Los Angeles, CA 90069

2/3/90

Dear Andrea,

In recent months, when more than usual I've been reminded of you and Sidney and your many kindnesses, I've intended to write and hope that you and the children are well and happy. I've just had occasion ~~at~~ to handle the Italian copy of my first book, which was handled by the fine person, Gordon Harbord, Sidney got to do it. So, I'm writing and I do hope you are all well.

By and large we are, although we have the old problems and some new ones.

I'm recovering from an operation I first heard of shortly after John was born, open-heart surgery. I remember Sidney telling me that he would need it when he was a little older. I marvelled then and do now!

I had three by-~~passes~~ passes at John Hopkins. It went so well they'd have sent me home the sixth day if I'd had transportation. That was just before Xmas. Although I chafe a bit over the limitations I'm still under, that operation is no real problem. But the old venous troubles in the legs and thighs is.

I don't see as much TV as I used to because I still get up early only now try to get to bed earlier, too. So although I look at the credits on public TV, I've not seen John on any aired at the hours I see it. I hope he is doing well and enjoying it and life.

One of our complaints is that we suddenyl have many fewer birds. I've wondered whether some one is feeding them what they like better or if something had happened to them. Our home is almost all glass, so I've arranged the feeders so we can see the birdswhile we sit in the living room or when Lil is in the kitchen.

We had another complaint but it almost vanished this past summer. The chipmunks moved in, eh masee. Painstakingly, deliverately, they consumed just about all of the bulbs Lil planted. Too late we discoccred how to discourage them and Lil's arthritis gives her enough trouble for her not to plan any more large plantings of bulbs.

In no time, their first assqult, they consumed 17 linear feet of hyacinths. Then all the scattered lillies were gone. (They don't touch daylillies.) Then a bed about 25 feel long of fine Dutch tulips were gone. Before long of the hundreds of tiger lillies we'd transplanted in a bed we'd gone to much trouble to enrich there wasn't one in that bed but we have a few that seeded elsewhere. This was the beginning of our observation that they detest members of the narcissus family. So, if you have a problem out there or of Cathy does in Conn., plant the bulbs inside a border of narcissi.They seem to migrate as soon as they've eaten all they relish. Here they could make a good living from the feed the birds waste, but that does not suit them.

This area has grown enormously because it was so much better a place to live and raise children than Baltimore, Washington or their suburbs. However, the newcomers brought with them what they found they didn't like in and near the larger cities. But we have the advantage of our five acres and we still have many deer and other animals. A racoon wandered into the main intersection of Frederick yesterday, was captured and taken to where he belongs. Another animal yesterday was fooling around with the eletrict wires downtown and short circuited the main lines for a while. It is still sort of rural.

And we were the beneficiary of the traditional rural thoughtfulness and kindness while I was hospitalized and until I was permitted to drive again. Even the lab techonologist came here from every other day to daily when the clotting time of my blood had to be tested. Now it is only twice a week and I drive in. I can only wonder whether such a thing happens in the big cities. Hope you are well and happy.

Best to you all,

Harold